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**TITLE 281 - COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
CHAPTER 13 - RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING
TELECOMMUNICATIONS-BASED OFF-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION**

001 STATUTORY AUTHORITY

85-1402 - Relating to pertinent definitions.

85-1413(f) - Relating to the Commission's responsibility to designate geographic/programmatic service areas for public institutions.

85-1413(5)(h) - Relating to guiding development of instructional delivery systems employing telecommunications and establishment of policies to ensure that the objectives of quality and efficiency are met in the delivery of telecommunications-aided instruction.

85-1414(8) - Relating to authority for the Commission to establish specific criteria for review, approval or disapproval of participation by public institutions in education centers.

002 SCOPE, APPLICATION AND RELATED PROVISIONS

This rule shall apply to Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education review of telecommunications-based off-campus instruction of Nebraska public postsecondary education institutions. All off-campus for-credit instructional programs are subject to Rule 10 of the Commission concerning off-campus programs and participation in Education Centers. The criteria and provisions of this Rule are supplemental to those of Rule 10.

003 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The Commission finds that telecommunications-based off-campus instruction can furnish an efficient means for providing access to postsecondary education for place and time-bound students without the need for a public institution to employ substantial numbers of additional professional staff or incur substantial travel expense. The purpose of this rule is to coordinate Nebraska public postsecondary education institution use of telecommunications-based off-campus instruction. This use is in the framework of meeting needs of Nebraskans for accessible quality postsecondary education within appropriate

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contexts such as institutional role and mission, instructional quality, availability of resources, and cost-effectiveness.

004 DEFINITIONS

004.01 Telecommunications-based courses shall mean college credit courses offered where any number of students are assembled at a receiving site by a postsecondary education institution at an applicable facility (the receiving site) for the purpose of engaging in instruction at that facility, for an academic term, by means of telecommunications regularly emanating from a sending institution. Said receiving facility may be at an Off-Campus Site, a Cooperative Education Center, or Cooperating Institution. Telecommunications-based courses provided to the personal residence of individual students are excluded from this rule. This definition excludes courses which use telecommunications primarily to enhance or supplement instruction. This definition excludes instruction which emanates in Nebraska for use exclusively outside the state of Nebraska. Telecommunications shall include instruction delivered to the receiving site via terrestrial or satellite installations and to include television, radio, telephone and/or computer communications.

In order to encourage the efficient delivery of educational offerings and avoid the necessity of duplicative efforts of other campuses, the requirements of this Rule do not apply to on-campus courses delivered through telecommunications within an institution, including between institutions under the same governing board.

004.02 Sending institution shall mean a postsecondary education institution which has principle responsibility to provide the instruction which constitutes the course for use by students at receiving locations and which transmits such instruction to a receiving site or sites via telecommunications.

004.03 Receiving institution shall mean the postsecondary education institution which participates in telecommunications-based courses provided by the sending institution. Telecommunications-based courses provided by a sending institution to its own off-campus facilities establishes the context that the institution is both the sending and the receiving institution. When two or more institutions jointly offer the same course, where control of the course essentially is equal, an institution can be both the sending and receiving institution.

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004.04 Receiving site shall mean an off-campus facility in which students assemble to participate in telecommunications-based courses provided by a sending institution. A receiving site where students participate in two-way communication with the sending institution shall not be considered a sending site.

004.05 Sending site shall mean a facility from which the sending institution emanates the instruction that constitutes the course for use by students at receiving sites.

004.06 Credit-granting institution shall mean the postsecondary education institution that awards the college credit to students enrolled in the course. A receiving or a sending institution may be the credit-granting institution.

004.07 Telecommunications-Aided Instruction shall mean credit courses, offered via telecommunications at an Off-Campus Site, a Cooperative Education Center or a Cooperating Institution.

005 OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA

The Commission's objectives in the review of proposed telecommunications-based off-campus programs and sites shall also include assuring that long-term obligations and financial commitments for equipment are consistent with educational needs and financial resources.

005.01 In addition to review criteria of Rule 10, telecommunications-based review criteria shall include:

005.01A Adequacy of resources and indicators of quality, which shall include, but not be limited to:

005.01A1 Adequate and appropriate physical facilities as well as instructional and telecommunications equipment at both sending and receiving sites.

005.01A2 Adequate and appropriate library and other student support services for the telecommunications-based off-campus programs and for the targeted student population consistent with the scope and nature of the program.

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005.01A3 Adequate and appropriately qualified faculty, proficient to offer instruction via telecommunications.

005.01A4 Adequate and appropriate curriculum and faculty-related academic resources for the telecommunications-based courses shall be comparable to corresponding instruction which is not offered via telecommunications.

005.01B Efficient delivery of telecommunications-based instruction, which includes, but is not limited to, a reasonable actual and/or projected balance between revenue and expenditures. Such revenue and expenditures shall be measured at the aggregate institutional level for all off-campus programs offered via telecommunications-based instruction at Cooperating Institutions or Off-Campus Sites. These revenues and expenditures shall be measured at the aggregate site level for off-campus programs offered at Cooperative Education Centers. Expenditures shall exclude telecommunications-related equipment acquisition and maintenance, as well as telecommunications distribution charges.

005.01C Avoidance of unnecessary duplication which shall include, but not be limited to, absence of similar program offerings by another institution in reasonable proximity. Such avoidance of unnecessary duplication may be evidenced by the presence of one or more of the following circumstances:

005.01C1 The sending institution is the sole statewide source for the course(s). The sending institution is the credit-granting institution.

005.01C2 The sending institution is not the sole statewide source but an equivalent course is otherwise unavailable from another public or private educational institution in reasonable proximity to the proposed receiving site for the telecommunications-based course. The sending institution is the credit-granting institution.

005.01C3 The sending institution is not the sole statewide source but the public or private educational institution(s) in reasonable proximity to the proposed receiving site for the

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telecommunications-based course that otherwise offers an equivalent course agrees not to offer the equivalent course during the term the sending institution will provide the telecommunications-based course. The sending institution is the credit-granting institution.

005.01C4 The course is offered under contract between a sending institution and a receiving institution whereby the receiving institution is the credit-granting institution, and for which the receiving site is not in reasonable proximity to another institution offering an equivalent course.

005.01C5 The course is offered by a public postsecondary education institution for individuals with business and/or agency affiliation where the business or agency has entered into agreement with the credit-granting institution to provide specified telecommunications-based instruction for these individuals.

006 PRE-AUTHORIZED TELECOMMUNICATIONS-BASED COURSES AND FACILITIES ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to the requires in Section 006.01 of Rule 10, affirmation shall include an appendix listing the telecommunications-based courses for which affirmation applies and may not be extended to courses which are not so listed. An institution may amend an affirmation at subsequent dates or provide additional affirmations for subsequent courses which also meet affirmation criteria.

APPROVED
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